

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 127750
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 SSM-05 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 DOE-15 SOE-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 ISO-00 /121 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHEMAN

PA/PRS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATEN

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----050763 200103Z /73

O 192338Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 127750

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

JCS WASHDC 0000
DOD WASHDC
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS STATE 127750

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 19

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 19, 1978. FYI ONLY,
SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY COMMUNICATION WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERN-
MENT IN REGARD TO THE EXPANSION OF THE SETTLEMENTS ON THE
WEST BANK?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 127750

A. YES, WE HAVE. OUR EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV IS LOOKING INTO
THAT REPORT. OUR PRESENT INFORMATION IS THAT THERE HAS
BEEN NO DECISION TO CARRY OUT ANY SUCH PROGRAM. BUT I
HAVE NOTHING MORE FOR YOU ON THAT.

Q. IN THIS CONNECTION, IN THE RESTON COLUMN TODAY IT IS
STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH
SADAT AND BEGIN ASKING BOTH SIDES IN EFFECT TO COOL IT FOR
SEVERAL WEEKS AND TO EITHER SAY OR DO NOTHING. IN OTHER
WORDS, THE U.S. IS URGING A DELAY IN THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. LET ME GIVE YOU A RUNDOWN HERE ON WHERE EXACTLY WE

STAND IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

IT SEEMS TO US THAT THOUGH THE RECENT ISRAEL ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS AND THE DEBATE OVER ARMS SALES TEMPORARILY
DIVERTED ATTENTION, THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS HAS BEEN
AND REMAINS THE CENTRAL CONCERN OF THIS GOVERNMENT IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. ITS SUCCESS IS THE BEST GUARANTEE IN THE
LONG RUN OF A DURABLE PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN
THAT TROUBLED AREA.

THOUGH WE DO NOT COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF PRIVATE
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE, I CAN SAY THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER HAS SENT LETTERS TO THE HEADS OF THE THREE

GOVERNMENTS -- THAT IS, EGYPT, ISRAEL AND SAUDI ARABIA--
RESTATING TO THEM WHAT HE SAID IN THE WHITE HOUSE
STATEMENT LAST MONDAY. WE ARE DETERMINED NOW TO PRESS
AHEAD TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND ARE INTENSIFYING
OUR EFFORTS TO THAT END.

THIS IS A COMPLICATED BUSINESS DEALING WITH THE CORE ISSU-
ES OF A 30-YEAR-OLD CONFLICT AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS AS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 127750

MUCH UP TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED AS IT IS TO THE UNITED
STATES.

WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO MOVE
AHEAD, AND OUR INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM CONTINUE
ABOUT HOW BEST TO MAKE THAT PROGRESS.

IN SPECIFIC TERMS, WE REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH ISRAEL
AND EGYPT ABOUT HOW TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE NEGOTIATIONS
BEGUN AFTER PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM.
SECRETARY VANCE'S MEETING YESTERDAY WITH SAUDI ARABIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SA'UD ALSO REVIEWED THE STATUS
OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING THE MEETINGS HERE SEVERAL
WEEKS AGO, FIRST WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AND THEN
WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, THE SECRETARY ASKED THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT CONCRETE
ISSUES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.- THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER
AGREED AT THAT TIME TO REVIEW THESE MATTERS WITH HIS -
CABINET AND TO GET BACK TO US WITH ANSWERS.
AT THESAMETIME WE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING INTENSIVE CONSUL-
TATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. THOSE CONSULTATIONS WERE

BEGUN DURING AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S VISIT TO CAIRO LATE
LAST MONTH. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THESE EXCHANGES WITH
ISRAEL, WITH EGYPT, WILL OPEN THE WAY TO FURTHER MOVEMENT

IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. OUR OBJECTIVE REMAINS A COMPREHEN-
SIVE PEACE INVOLVING ISRAEL AND ALL ITS NEIGHBORS.

THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING WHICH WE ATTENDED WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT LAST
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 127750

JANUARY WAS A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO GOVERN SUCH
NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE STILL WORKING HARD TO ACHIEVE THAT
DECLARATION.

THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIANS,

PARTICULARLY THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. WE BELIEVE SOME UNDERSTANDING ON THESE ISSUES IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVING A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AND WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND OUR TALKS WITH EGYPT HAVE CONCENTRATED RECENTLY ON HOW TO MOVE FORWARD ON THESE PALESTINIAN ISSUES. IN THIS AREA PRIME MINISTER BEGIN PUT FORWARD AN ISRAELI PROPOSAL IN DECEMBER AND WE HAVE ALREADY SAID WE CONSIDER IT A CONSTRUCTIVE STARTING POINT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE ARAB NEGOTIATORS HAVE THEIR OWN VIEWS ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, AND WE SHALL BE CONSULTING FURTHER WITH THEM.

OUR ROLE IN THESE TALKS IS TO HELP THE PARTIES FIND A MIDDLE GROUND. IN THE CASE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ISSUES WE CANNOT DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED WITHOUT A FULL EXPLORATION OF THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED AND WHAT EACH SIDE SEES IN PRACTICAL TERMS AS THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IS NO? THE QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE DELAY THAT HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE PRESIDENT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IN A RATHER LENGTHY FASHION YOU HAVE JUST SAID THAT IS NOT THE CASE. IS THAT ACCURATE? WHICH IS TRUE? ARE YOU PRESSING AHEAD, IN FACT, OR SEEKING A DELAY?

A. LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 127750

Q. WELL, YOU HAVE JUST SAID YOU ARE PRESSING AHEAD, SO HOW CAN YOU TAKE THE QUESTION?

A. THE CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING. WE BELIEVE THAT UNLESS THERE IS SOME FURTHER PROGRESS THAT THE STAGNATION,

WHICH THE SECRETARY HAS SAID IS BEGINNING TO TAKE HOLD HERE, IS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT IN TERMS OF KEEPING THE MOMENTUM GOING IN THESE TALKS.

Q. IS THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW NOW HELD UP BY THE FAILURE OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S TO COME UP WITH CERTAIN ANSWERS? IN OTHER WORDS, DOES IT ALL NOW HANG ON THE ANSWERS PROVIDED BY ISRAEL TO QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TAG THE ISRAELIS OR THE EGYPTIANS OR ANY PARTICULAR PARTY WITH HANGING UP THE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE ARE A LOT OF COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED. IT IS NOT

THAT ISRAEL IS HOLDING UP THE NEGOTIATIONS OR THE
PROCESS OR BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE ANSWERS YET.

Q. YOU HAVE CITED SPECIFICALLY IN YOUR STATEMENT AND
AGAIN IN ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION THAT YOU ASKED BEGIN
CERTAIN QUESTIONS. YOU ARE NOW WAITING FOR THE ANSWERS.
PRESUMABLY THOSE ANSWERS WOULD HELP YOU MOVE FORWARD IN
THE NEGOTIATION. ARE YOU WAITING FOR ANY SPECIFIC
RESPONSES TO OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THE OTHER SIDE THAT
WOULD BE EQUALLY HELPFUL IN PRESSING THE NEGOTIATION
FORWARD?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC FORMAL OUTSTANDING
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 127750

QUESTIONS WHICH WE HAVE PUT TO THE EGYPTIANS WHICH
AWAIT FORMAL ANSWERS. BUT, AS I SAID IN THE STATEMENT
I JUST READ, I BELIEVE THAT OUR CONSULTATIONS ARE
CONTINUING WITH THE EGYPTIANS.

Q. SINCE YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE
IS THE PALESTINIANS AND SINCE WE HAVE CERTAINLY MADE A
NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS TO BOTH SIDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND SINCE WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE PLO UNTIL THEY ARE
READY TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, COULD YOU TELL
ME HAVE WE SUGGESTED TO THE SAUDI ARABIANS THAT THEY
STOP POURING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO THE PLO OR NOT?
HAVE WE NEVER MADE THAT STATEMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO WHAT
WE ARE SAYING IN PRIVATE TO THE SAUDIS.

Q. HAVE WE EVER MADE IT PUBLIC? HAVE WE EVER SAID THAT
IN PUBLIC TO THE SAUDI ARABIANS?

A. THAT I DON'T KNOW.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION AND SEE?

Q. DID SECRETARY VANCE DISCUSS WITH PRINCE SA'UD ANGOLA
AND ERITREA?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DID ASK THE SECRETARY YESTERDAY
EVENING WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN THOSE TALKS. I WAS
TOLD THAT IT HAD BEEN A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE MIDDLE
EAST NEGOTIATING PEACE PROCESS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER
HAD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE ACTION OF THE
CONGRESS IN SHOWING THE CONFIDENCE THAT IT DID IN THE
SAUDI ARABIANS. BUT I THINK THAT THE FOCUS OF THE TALKS
WAS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. BUT IF YOU WOULD
LIKE ME TO TAKE THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ERITREA
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 127750

WAS DISCUSSED OR ETHIOPIA --

Q. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE THE SPECIFIC QUESTION WHETHER THE SECRETARY OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING PRINCE SA'UD'S LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS HERE YESTERDAY DID DISCUSS WITH HIM MATTERS INVOLVING ANGOLA AND ERITREA.

A. YES, SIR. I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. COULD I ADD TO THAT SOUTH YEMEN OR OTHER PERCEIVED THREATS TO SAUDI ARABIA FROM LEFTISTS AND COMMUNISTS ON THEIR BORDERS?

A. YES, I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q. SINCE THE STATE DEPARTMENT CALLED ON ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.N. TROOPS, HAVE YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE SYRIANS TO STOP SUPPLYING THE PLO WITH ARMS IN LEBANON?

A. I REALLY DONT KNOW WHAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE SYRIANS IN THAT REGARD.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE THE QUESTION, PLEASE?

A. I AM RELUCTANT TO TAKE THAT QUESTION BECAUSE I DONT THINK THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO GET YOU AN ANSWER.

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED ON MAY 16, IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN.

Q. HAVE WE RECEIVED RECENTLY ANY PROTESTS FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 127750

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT OVER ISRAELI OIL OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES?

A. ON APRIL 4 THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT STATED IN A LETTER TO U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM ITS OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI-SPONSORED PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THIS LETTER WAS CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN KEEPING WITH THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN THE LETTER, WE NOTIFIED AMERICAN FIRMS KNOWN TO BE ENGAGED IN THESE OPERATIONS OF THE EGYPTIAN POSITION.

THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SUBSEQUENTLY SENT A LETTER TO

SECRETARY VANCE ON APRIL 30, REITERATING THE
EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS SUMMARIES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127750
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0285
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805112/baaaeyrq.tel
Line Count: 330
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3e7a3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2540249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 19
TAGS: SOPN, MASS, PBOR, US, XF, IS, EG
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3e7a3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014